

Oh for such faith

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11, 13

Somehow this past week my mind would not come out of Hebrews chapter 11.

This chapter is widely acclaimed as Bible's Hall of fame where all the great Biblical heroes are showcased. When we read this chapter closely we find not even one man or woman fell in line with the world. The world and its pleasures could not hold them back in pursuing that which they have not seen. This raw faith is so confounding. This chapter is a challenge to human logic and rationality. To believe what is not seen. Noah built an ark when he had never seen rain or sea. Abraham left his land when he heard the voice of God and he kept on believing even when he could

not rationally believe he would father a son through Sarah. His wife is now past child bearing. And again Sarah got the strength to conceive only by faith.

This chapter like nothing else in the recent past has been such a challenge and more a slap across the face for me. When something goes wrong we sit and mourn and whine. Immediately the temptation is to pack our bags and opt out of ministry. "Enough is enough Lord, let me go back to the job you have given and live my life." Somehow we fear to go on again. We fear we may not come into the Promised Land. We fear our faith somehow would be false. We fear the scorn of our believing friends and well wishers. We somehow want to guard our soul, and lead a life which will not disturb anyone.

But what sets these ordinary men apart is that though they also had there moments of doubt and

fear something in them chose to trust their God. They were not ashamed to claim Him as their God. This verse above is the culmination of their faith. All they had were Promises, Promises and a God who is Word perfect. Twenty five years before Issac was born Abraham left his home and wandered as a stranger and pilgrim. He saw the Promise far off and embraced it as something embraceable, tangible and went on and on.

Moses shrugged off the riches of the richest kingdom Egypt and chose to suffer with his people.

This faith is a different faith, a faith which is there only to please God. Not to keep on lining our nests, keep on claiming in faith for more wealth, more possession, more, more of this world. But this faith rejects the world, but rather looks up to what is not seen, yet patiently walks towards it.

My dear friends, this is my real heart cry that God would give me this faith which would please Him, where our crazy, raw, ununderstable faith would gladden his heart. And He will lay His weight on our shoulders and entrust us with the task of

*building His unshakeable kingdom here on earth.
Are there no Jim Elliots who will leave the lap of
America 's luxury and go into the darkest jungles?
Are there no Amy Carmicheals who will gather
the child prostitutes in the safety of those eternal
arms? Oh for the faith. Oh for such faith*

*Lord, Oh Lord, I pray that you break my heart to
believe Your Promise even when we can't see
anything happening. Oh Lord give us the courage
to do the unconventional, to go to the lost and
lonely. Lord give me a sensitive heart to hear your
heart cry and be your healing to the world's
despairing hopeless generation. Give me faith to
leave what seems to be good in this world now and
to embrace what we cannot see. Oh Lord give me
the faith, give me the faith. In Jesus name. Amen.*